Pay for Oswald Rifle Is Denied to Exhibitor

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DENVER, Feb. 24 (AP)—Oilman John J. King lost his bid today to be paid for the rifle used to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

A Federal court jury ruled Lee Harvey Oswald abandoned the rifle after the Dallas shooting and therefore Oswald's widow had no claim on it or authority to sell it to King.

The jury, in a verdict reached Friday and opened today, set the value of the Italian mail-order rifle at zero.

The panel of three women and nine men awarded King $350 for the .38-caliber pistol used to kill Dallas patrolman J. D. Tippitt following the Kennedy slaying.

King had paid Marina Oswald $10,000 for the weapons and the right to exhibit them, and Mrs. Oswald was to get another $35,000 once King actually got possession of the weapons.

Ater the contract was signed, Congress passed a law making the guns part of the national archives and specifying owners of the property would receive "just compensation,"

King filed suit, seeking 5 million for the two guns. He testified during the trial last week that as a gun collector he valued the rifle at $450,000, although Oswald paid $21.45 for it.

The award for the pistol was not connected with the abandonment question, since that gun was taken from Oswald when he was arrested. He had paid $29.95 for it.